S1 God Lives With His People (Section 1)

In Advent, in the lead up to Christmas, all of our focus was the preparation for the ***Incarnation****: at Christmas, in the birth of Jesus, God came into the world, as he had promised his people in the Old Testament. In Jesus we see God among us: born of a woman, Jesus is fully human, but as the Son of God he is also fully divine. Now we are going to look at the life and ministry of Jesus; how God lived among his people. We are going to focus on the accounts given in the gospel of St. Mark.*

Learning Intentions:

I am learning:

1. that God became man and lived among us.
2. to examine key New Testament events from the ministry of Jesus and identify where God is revealed as Father, Son and Holy Spirit
3. how Mark's Gospel influenced the early Christian communities understanding of the nature of God
4. that Jesus is truly divine
5. reflect on why the New Testament is important for Christian living.

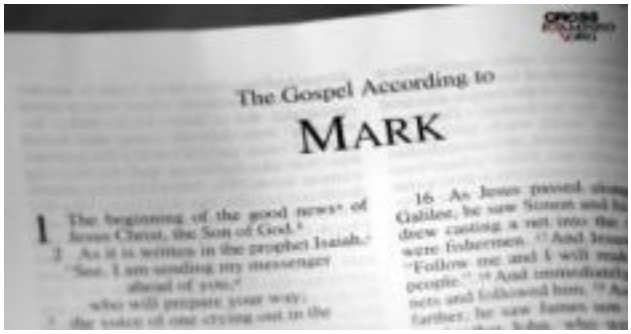
Success Criteria:

1. I know that Jesus is the Son of God.
2. I have explored New Testament texts and can identify passages where God is revealed as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
3. I can use examples from Mark's gospel to explain how the early Christian communities understood more about the nature of God.
4. I can use examples from Mark's gospel to show that Jesus is truly divine.

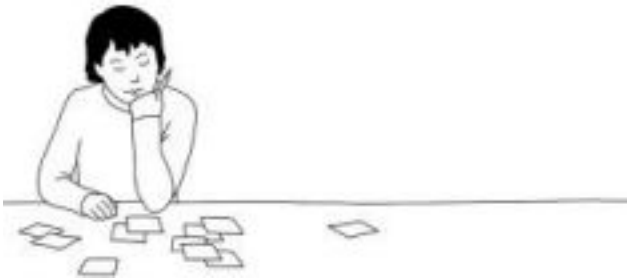
5. I have reflected on why the New Testament is important for Christians today.

Mark's Gospel

Much of what we are going to study in this section will come from the gospel of Mark. Mark's gospel is the shortest of the four gospels, and is believed to be the oldest. Mark assisted Paul, and worked with Peter. It is believed that much of Mark's gospel is based on St. Peter's accounts of the life and ministry of Jesus, and we know that St. Peter was a very close companion to Jesus.



***1) 5 Minute Task* - What Makes a Good Writer?** *Think about what you have learned over your school career about writing, and about the importance of planning and preparation before you start a piece of writing. Mark's is the first of the gospels. He won't have seen one before. He is telling people about what he considers to be the most important message ever told.* **How should he plan it?** *What are the main things a writer has to think about before they put pen to paper? You have 5 minutes. What do you think are the three most important things? You can work with your group/partner if you are in school.*



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So . . .what did you think? *We can see that any writer who wants to get their message across has to put some thought into how they deliver that message. We're going to look at some of Mark's thoughts when he was writing his gospel. In this table, you will see some of the points we are going to consider:*

Mark's Gospel

Focus on . . . (What is it about?)	
Intended Audience . . .	
Keyword/Mood . . .	
Key Idea . . .	
Good Opening/Title...	

Video Task *Watch this short video and try to gather some information that will allow you to complete the table. The video is short and moves along quite quickly, so it might be better not to try to write while it is on; just listen carefully and see how much you can remember. You can write up your answers at the end.*

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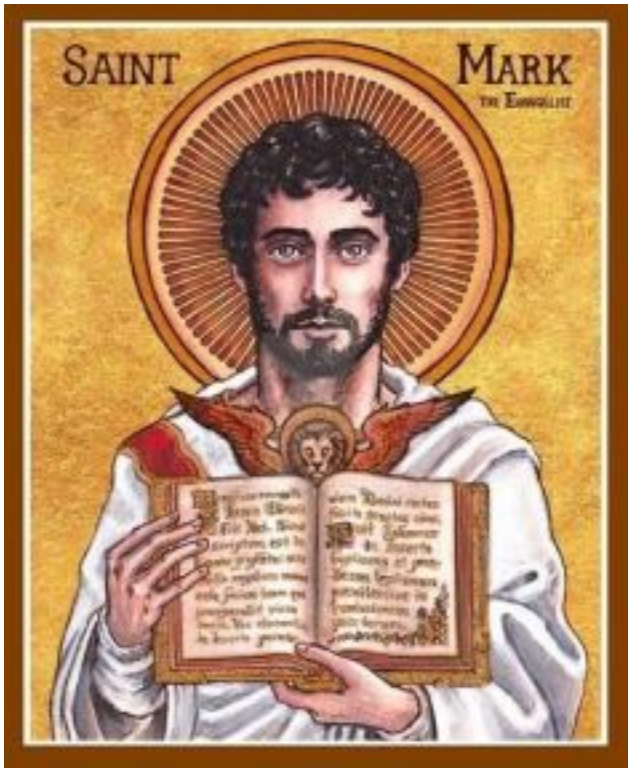
Mark's Gospel

Focus on . . . (What is it about?)	What Jesus did; the authority of Jesus Chapters 1 – 9: Jesus as Son of God; Man of Miracles Chapters 10 – 16: Jesus as the Suffering Servant
Intended Audience . . .	Christians suffering under persecution in Rome
Keyword(s) . . .	"Immediately", "Now"
Key Idea . . .	Jesus as the Messiah and Servant Leader: *"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many . . ."* Mark 10:45
Good Opening/Title...	*"The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God."* Mark 1:1

2. When should it be written? *Try to imagine 30 years into the future. A first year pupil is sitting in their history class. They have just been given their homework:* **"In the year 2020 Britain was struck by the Coronavirus pandemic. You should create a presentation looking at the impact and consequences of this pandemic for people in Britain ."**

What would be the best sources for this pupil to use to research for their presentation? ** Reports*

*produced at the start of the pandemic? * Reports from half way through it? * Reports from the end of it? * Reports looking back at it after 5 years? 10 years? 20 years? * The most recent reports looking back at it?* **Discussion Point: What would be the advantages/disadvantages of using sources from the time the pandemic was happening, or for using sources from years later? What is best, and why?**



St. Mark's Gospel *Mark didn't write his gospel down at the same time as Jesus was teaching and ministering to the people. His gospel is written after around thirty to forty years of praying, reflecting, talking to others (including Peter, who was amongst Jesus' closest followers), and seeing the difference that Jesus and his teaching made to the lives of those who had been touched by his life and his words. Mark has had the time to see what were the most important things Jesus said; what were the things he*

did that had the most impact; how some of the things he said referred to future events. In addition, when we read it, we are doing so in light of hundreds of years of learning, teaching and all sorts of influences. It is also important to appreciate the audience that Mark is writing for. Mark's gospel is written for the Christians in first century Rome. As we know, it was not easy to be a Christian in first century Rome -they were persecuted and even killed because of their faith. Mark tries to show them that Jesus suffered too; that their suffering is not in vain and unites them with Jesus, who understands what they are living through. As we go on to look at how God lives with his people, bear in mind all that you have learned here about Mark's gospel.

TASK:
St. Mark in art

When we see pictures of St. Mark he is often depicted with a lion.

Given everything you have learned about him and the main messages of his gospel, why do you think this is the case?